

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

More specifically, in the Office Action claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-17, and 19-21 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected over prior art. Claims 2-6, 9-11, 13-17, and 1-21 were noted as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. Claims 8 and 12 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 18 and 22 were allowed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

First, by the present response the claims are amended to address the objections noted in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. The claims are amended as suggested in the Office Action with one exception. Independent claims 1 and 13 now recite a "collection optical unit", which language is believed to address certain objections noted in those claims. The presently submitted claim amendments are believed to address all the outstanding claim objections.

Further, independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to now incorporate the limitations of previously pending dependent claim 2. Claim 2 is accordingly canceled without prejudice. Thus, independent claim 1 now corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 2 rewritten in independent form, which subject matter was noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 3-6 now depend from amended independent claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 7 is amended to incorporate limitations from dependent claim 8, and accordingly dependent claim 8 is canceled without prejudice. Thus, independent claim 7 now corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 8 rewritten in independent form, and claims 9-12 now depend from amended independent claim 7. The above-noted claims are believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

The other pending claims were also noted as reciting allowable subject matter if amended to address the objections thereto, which objections are believed to have been addressed by the presently submitted amendments.

Thus, in view of the present response each of the claims is believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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